

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Announcement of an extension of the public comment period for the draft TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Waters in Accomack County

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To extend the public comment period for the draft TMDLs for Holdens Creek, Sandy Bottom Branch, Unnamed Tributary to Sandy Bottom Branch, Unnamed Tributary to Pitts Creek, and Petit Branch all located in Accomack County.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has been working to identify sources of pollution in Holdens Creek, Sandy Bottom Branch, Unnamed Tributary to Sandy Bottom Branch, Unnamed Tributary to Pitts Creek, and Petit Branch all located in Accomack County.

Petit Branch (VAT-D02R-01), Holdens Creek (VAT-C10E-01), Sandy Bottom Branch (VAT-C10R-02), and Unnamed Tributary to Sandy Bottom Branch (VAT-C10R-01), were identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for bacteria and do not support the Recreation Use. Segment VAT-C09R-01 of Unnamed Tributary to Pitts Creek was listed in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report because it did not support the Aquatic Life Use due to violations of the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

During the study, the sources of pollutants have been identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, May 12, 2008 to May 28, 2008. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl>.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Jennifer Howell, Regional TMDL Coordinator

Address: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality - Tidewater Regional Office, 5636 Southern Blvd, Virginia Beach VA 23462

Phone: (757) 518-2111

E-mail: jshowell@deq.virginia.gov

Fax: (757) 518-2003